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April 15, 1969

Subject: Soviet Medical Scientists Participation in 1969  
ASMA Scientific Meeting

To: Rear Admiral Frank Voris, USN (MC)  
Chairman, International Activities Committee  
Aerospace Medical Association  
Washington National Airport  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Frank:

1. On 8 April a cablegram was received from Prof. Oleg Gazenko, Chief of the Russian Delegation to the 1969 ASMA meeting, listing the titles and authors of 3 Soviet papers to be presented. A telecon exchange of this information with Dr. David Freyer yielded the integration of these offerings into the scientific program as follows:

a. Prof. Oleg Gazenko - Chief, USSR Delegation. No formal presentation, but it is probably that he will have some informal remarks to make at some propitious time.

b. B. Adamovich - "Some Results of 365 Day Medical Technical Experiment" - 1030 - 6 May - Imperial Ballroom

c. L. Pyrusjan - "Micro Calorimetry of Blood Coagulation During Action of Magnetic Field" - 1130 - 8 May - Continental Room I

d. V. Antipov - "Results of Biological Experiments Made on Zond - 5". 1500 - 8 May - Continental Room I

2. Several members of the Association have contacted President Talbot and myself, in your absence, on the possibility of arranging informal (invitees only) conferences with the Soviet scientists on the following subjects:

a. The potential role of nitrogen as an active agent in biological processes.

b. The problem of regulating sleep - work cycles in space flight, to include a consideration of artificial means (i.e. drugs and electro sleep) to assure an adequate sleep-period during the 24 hour period in space flight

c. Current status in estimating the potential radiation hazard in space flight to include personnel and vehicular radiological monitoring devices.

President Talbot's interim decision on this matter, pending further discussion with yourself, was that such arrangements would have to be made on an informal personal basis between the USA and USSR scientists. Boris Mandrovsky is aware of these requests and will assist these American representatives in setting up such closed session if the president and you approve.

3. As of this date no information has been received on the exact arrival date of the Soviet delegation. Miss Gavrishchev of the State Department informs us that the visa applications request a landing date of 30 April, which they would not grant since they normally allow a landing date of only 2 days prior to the 1st day of the scientific meeting. Under this ruling, with the official opening day of the meeting being on 5 May, the Soviets would be granted a visa covering a period of 2 days prior (3 May) to 2 days after the meeting (10 May). Miss Gavrishchev further stated that in order to approve the requested date of 30 April, the ASMA would have to sponsor some acceptable scientific activity for the Soviet delegation to cover that additional 2 day period.


4. On the basis of previous communications with Prof. Gazenko plus our information on the Aeroflot flight schedules, we had addressed ourselves to the question of setting up a schedule of informal technical sessions for the Soviets assuming their arrival date of 28 April. I made informal inquiries to the AMA Headquarters in Chicago, the VA Rehabilitation Center in New York, and the Hoffman-LaRoche Laboratories in New Jersey regarding their willingness to set up informal conferences for the USA-USSR group.

All these parties stated that they would be happy to make such arrangements at times and on subjects of our choosing. In discussing this plan with President Talbot, he opined that the Association should not officially sponsor these additional activities since our primary expressed interest was in having the Soviet delegation attend the total period of the scientific meeting, namely 5 - 9 May. Subsequently I contacted the aforementioned 3 groups and cancelled the preliminary plans made for setting up these informal conferences to cover the 5 day period preceding the authorized arrival date of 3 May at San Francisco for the Soviet delegation.

5. The requested date of entrance on the Soviet's visa application of 30 April has caused some questions to arise on their possible mode of travel to the USA. Several sources speculated that the new summer schedule for Aeroflot allowing 2 flight per week during the tourist season would begin with the first Wednesday flight on 30 April. However, I called the Aeroflot office in New York and they informed me that the twice weekly flight schedule would begin on Wednesday, 7 May, rather than on 30 April. The only other possibility would be that the Soviets plan on using another carrier for their trans-Atlantic flight. However, the significant fact still remains, namely, that State will not approve a 30 April arrival date for their visas unless approved plans are submitted to cover the additional three days, i.e. 30 April, 1-2 May.

6. In the event that you would wish to activate a portion of the previous plan to cover 3 days in New York, or 1½ days in each of New York and Chicago, I'm confident that the previously contacted groups will be glad to issue the necessary formal invitations. This, however, would entail an ASMA representative and interpreter meeting the Soviets in New York and accompanying them continuously on through to San Francisco. Since I will be attending the ASMA meeting at my own expense, it is impossible for me financially to volunteer for the assignment covering these preliminary conferences. However, if you would designate another acceptable volunteer, I will turn over my contacts in New York and Chicago to him and assist him in completing all required arrangements. I will await further word from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Don Flickinger, M.D.  
Co-Chairman,  
International Activities Committee